

# **WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD NORTH COAST REGION**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**October 2002**

### *CLEANUPS AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION*

#### **Contamination of Groundwater in an Area North of Sebastopol**

[Staff Contact: Luis Rivera]

In September 2002, staff began investigating reports of discharges to the sanitary sewer of the solvent tetrachloroethene (PCE) from dry cleaning operations located in the Redwood Marketplace Shopping Center and the Fiesta Market complex in north Sebastopol. These locations are adjacent to unincorporated areas not served by a municipal water system. PCE is one of a group of compounds known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Information provided by staff from the Cities of Sebastopol and Santa Rosa indicated that one of the dry cleaning operations had been found in violation of their sewer discharge permits for recent discharges of PCE to the sewer system. In addition, older records indicated that chronic discharges to the sanitary sewer had been documented in at least one of the locations.

As part of the investigation, staff offered to take samples from the two wells serving the nearby Belmont Terrace Mutual Water Company. Well No. 1 is a standby well and No. 2 is in use as the main well. Analytical results of the main well sample revealed that no VOCs, including PCE, were found in the well on the date staff sampled.

The sampling results of the standby well revealed the compound PCE at a concentration of 0.62 parts per billion (ppb). The level of PCE found in the well is below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by California Department of Health Services as appropriate for drinking water. The California Department of Health Services has set the MCL for PCE at 5 ppb.

In conjunction with this effort, staff performed a preliminary domestic well survey in the area. In collaboration with the Sonoma County Department of Health, Environmental Health Division, sampling of 13 individual domestic wells was accomplished. SCEHD also completed outreach activities involving door-to-door contact and mailings to the immediately identified neighborhood. Initial analytical results indicate that none of the closest private parcels served by wells appear to be affected by PCE contamination.

Based on the potential significant hazard that discharges of PCE can present to drinking water and other beneficial uses, a detailed inquiry into the nature and extent of the contamination, and the prompt creation of a plan to remediate any contamination found is warranted. Therefore, on November 15, 2002 the Executive Officer issued orders to the initially identified responsible parties for the two dry cleaning operations. The orders contain requests for the submittal of workplans for initial groundwater investigations.

Staff will update the Regional Water Board on the progress of this investigation as more information is developed.

## **TIMBER HARVEST DIVISION**

### **Two Log Creek Settlement Agreement**

[Staff Contact: Christine Wright-Shacklett]

On July 6, 2000, a rock quarry blast on Hawthorne Timber Company lands created a discharge of soils to Two Log Creek. The discharge was measured to be approximately four to sixteen feet in depth for approximately seventy linear feet. Two Log Creek is an anadromous fish-bearing stream and tributary to Big River in Mendocino County. An Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2001-20 was issued on March 30, 2001 in the amount of \$150,000 for the discharge in violation of the Regional Water Quality Control Plan. On August 22, 2001, Hawthorne Timber Company, the Campbell Group, and the Regional Water Board Executive Officer reached a settlement of Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2001-0020.

The Settlement Agreement required a road restoration project be completed by October 15, 2001, a tree planting project be completed by February 30, 2002, and an in-stream large woody debris placement (LWD) project be completed by October 15, 2002. The road restoration project and the tree planting project have been completed. Hawthorne Timber Company/Campbell Group applied for a Department of Fish & Game 1600 permit for the LWD project during June of 2002. The Hawthorne Timber Company/Campbell Group has not yet received the necessary permits and therefore, the LWD project has not been completed as of this date. Also, the Hawthorne Timber Company/Campbell Group must develop the necessary CEQA documentation to expedite the permit approval process. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, failure to complete the LWD project by the deadline may result in a civil liability of \$50,000 payable to the State Water Resources Control Board. However, Hawthorne Timber Company/Campbell Group has been making a good faith effort to proceed with obtaining the 1600 permit with the goal of project implementation during 2003. It is expected that Hawthorne Timber Company/Campbell Group will submit a request for a time extension to the Executive Officer to allow for development of the CEQA documentation, issuance of the 1600 permit, and completion of the project by October 15, 2003.

## **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

### **Update on 303(d) deferment by the State Water Board**

[Staff Contact: Matt St. John]

State Water Resources Control Board staff released a draft final version of the 2002 Clean Water Act 303(d) list of water quality limited segments and an accompanying staff report on October 15, 2002. The documents are posted at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/303dupdate.html>. On November 6, 2002 the State Water Board held a workshop to consider the State Water Board staff report. At the workshop the State Board announced that the scheduled meeting to approve the list would be postponed from November 19 to December 2. On November 8, 2002, State Water Board staff announced a second postponement of the State Water Board meeting, now scheduled for January 22, 2003. As stated in the postponement announcement, written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 6, 2002.

### **Tribute to Gualala River Watershed Coordinator**

[Staff Contact: Lauren Clyde]

Doug Simmonds recently announced his "official" retirement as the watershed coordinator for the Gualala River Watershed Council (GRWC). He was a founding member of the GRWC nearly ten years ago when the Regional Water Board staff first began working with the Gualala River watershed stakeholders. Doug has been actively involved in many aspects of protecting and restoring the watershed, particularly in working with Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) to obtain and manage grants from agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board 319(h) and the California Department of Fish and Game SB 271 for restoration projects.

We have enjoyed a good relationship with Doug and the watershed Council. Doug has the ability to keep the big picture in focus, and has successfully brought diverse interests together to work collaboratively in the watershed. That ability and his calm reasoned manner no doubt landed him the job as watershed coordinator.

At a surprise party following the Gualala River Restoration Plan Workshop on November 16<sup>th</sup>,

members of the GRWC paid tribute to Mr. Simmonds. North Coast Regional Water Board staff presented a certificate of appreciation to him for his many years of excellent work working toward protection and restoration of the Gualala watershed.

Mr. Simmonds remains an active member of the GRWC and is still involved with road improvement projects in the watershed; in addition, he continues his video production business.

## **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

### **Progress Report on Del Rio Woods**

[Staff Contact: Andrew Jensen]

On September 26, 2002, an update on a Request for a Report of Waste Discharge for the Del Rio Woods Summer Dam was presented to the Regional Water Board. Staff member Mr. Andrew Jensen, Environmental Scientist, presented the Board with an update regarding the summer dam project performed seasonally by the Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District (District). Mr. Don King, representing the District, presented the Board with a historical perspective and discussion regarding the proposed summer dam construction in future years. Also present at the board meeting were approximately 50-60 public citizens interested in the Del Rio Dam project. The District was instructed by the Board to work with Regional Water Board staff to find an interim project solution which would protect the beneficial uses of the Russian River and subsequently allow the Regional Water Board to permit the placement and removal of the summer dam structure over the next two years while a permanent project is developed.

The District retained Mr. Fred Euphrat to work on the design of an interim project. Regional Water Board staff members Bob Tancreto and Andrew Jensen met with Mr. Euphrat on October 23, 2002 to discuss an interim plan for the placement and removal of the summer dam for the next couple of years. During the meeting, Mr. Euphrat proposed a plan to incorporate large culverts into one of the earthen berms which would be capped and prior to removal of the berms could be uncapped and used to drain down the reservoir behind the dam structure. Mr. Tancreto and Mr. Jensen discussed the preliminary plan with Mr. Euphrat

and told him of the permitting requirements, and that the interim plan would likely only be allowed for two years while the permanent project is being developed. Mr. Euphrat was given a copy of the Water Quality Certification application to use to apply for a Section 401 Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification for the project. Mr. Euphrat said that he would complete the application and be in touch in the near future. An application package has not yet been received.



Overview of Dell Rio Dam Taken August 2001.

### **Sonoma County Summer Bridge Crossings Across the Russian River**

[Staff Contact: Andrew Jensen]

Regional Water Board staff members John Short, Andrew Jensen, and student intern Lauren Hocker have been working with the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Department (PRMD) staff to assess the potential water quality impacts associated with four seasonal crossings across the Russian River. The summer crossings are located at Washington School Road near Asti, Odd Fellows Road near Korbel Champagne Cellars, Summer Crossing Road at Guernwood Park and Vacation Beach Avenue at Vacation Beach. The summer crossings consist of temporary bridges that span the low flow channel of the Russian River and gravel roads that are constructed within the river channel to connect to the temporary bridge structures. The summer crossings are currently permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), State Lands Commission, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), and the Regional Water Board.

The crossing at Asti includes 60 foot long temporary bridge and a gravel road which is



pushed up yearly and extends for approximately 510 feet, and is 24-26 feet wide. The river is narrowed by pushing gravel into the flowing water of the river until the gravel is pushed up to the pier of the bridge. The river area that is filled seasonally in approximately 15 to 70 feet long.



Bulldozer being used to remove Odd Fellows Summer Crossing on October 10, 2002.

The crossing at Odd Fellows includes a 60 foot long temporary bridge crossing and a gravel road which is constructed using native soils and gravels and extends for approximately 145 feet, much of which is into the flowing channel of the Russian River. Two 24-inch culverts or one 36-inch culvert is placed in the lowest area of the gravel road to allow for flow through the gravel roadway.

The Summer Bridge Road crossing includes a permanent bridge structure and a gravel roadway of about 200 feet. In addition two 24-inch culverts are placed in the lowest area of the gravel roadway to allow for flow of the river. The gravel roadbed results in construction within the wetted channel for the majority of the 200-foot long section.

The Vacation Beach crossing consists of a 60-foot long temporary bridge spanning the deepest section of the river in the location of the crossing, and a 230 foot long gravel roadbed. The gravel roadway construction requires placement of some material into the flow of the Russian River.

The crossings have been installed for several decades, and only recently have the detrimental

water quality impacts been realized. Mr. Jeffery Jahn, Fisheries Biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, sent Regional Water Board staff copies of photos and video clips taken during the installations of these crossings in May 2002.

His photos and the video show substantial turbidity associated with the construction of the crossings. Consequently, Regional Water Board staff requested meetings with Sonoma County PRMD staff to discuss the potential impacts to the beneficial uses of the Russian River. Staff met with County staff on June 12, 2002 and discussed issues associated with the crossings and the current permitting requirements. Regional Water Board staff have also met County staff on-site at the crossings on October 10 and 11, 2002 which coincided with the removals, and November 12, 2002 after the removals were complete and the first rain event occurred. County staff were directed to prepare the disturbed areas of the sites with erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the sedimentation into the Russian River.

Odd Fellows Summer Crossing being removed on



October 10, 2002.

County staff are currently in the process of preparing an Initial Study for the projects pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and have recently applied to the Regional Water Board for Water Quality Certifications for the crossings. The current proposal for the crossings appear to address the water quality concerns associated with past projects. Regional Water Board staff will continue to work with County staff to find ways to construct and remove the summer crossings that do not impair the beneficial uses of the Russian River.

### **Progress Report on Compliance with Storm Water Annual Reports**

[Staff Contact: Nancy Negley]

The Clean Water Act provides a framework for regulation of municipal and industrial storm water discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Eliminator System. Businesses that require a storm water permit are identified by certain Standard Industry Codes. These codes can be found in the permit application.

The storm water permit requires self-monitoring and each business has certain criteria and standards for sampling storm water discharges. When the sampling results contain levels of constituents above the permitted level, the business must implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to correct the discharge. Re-sampling is necessary to verify that the BMPs corrected the problem. This process would continue until the discharge is clean or under permitted levels.

To document that the business is complying with the storm water permit, an Annual Storm Water Report needs to be completed and submitted to Regional Water Board staff. The report compiles the years worth of sampling, observations, and changes that were implemented to comply with the permit. The Annual Storm Water Report is due by July 1<sup>st</sup> for each year or part of a year that the permit is active. On September 9, 2002, a letter was sent to those businesses that were out of compliance with the July 1<sup>st</sup> submittal. Fifty-seven businesses were sent this letter out of 353 active permits. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, a second letter was sent to 4 businesses remaining out of compliance. If the 4 businesses do not comply within 60 days of the second request, then proceedings will start for the Mandatory Administrative Civil Liabilities.

During the month of October 2002 the Timber Harvest Division received 60 new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) and 10 amendments to THPs. Staff participated in First Review meetings for 15 THPs and participated in Second Review meetings for 24 THPs. Eighteen inspections were also conducted during October 2002.

NOTE: This is a snap shot of a working database with data entered as of November 15, 2002.

## **CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDERS**

There were twenty-six Cleanup and Abatement Orders issued during the month of October 2002. Order No. R1-2002-0097 was issued to Hi-Ridge Lumber Company replacing 3 separate orders. Order No. R1-2002-0101 was issued to several Solid Waste Disposal Sites throughout the Region. Order No. R1-2002-0101 was issued for a moratorium on the disposal of decommissioned materials to Class III and unclassified waste management units. Hanes Ranch Inc was also issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (No. R1-2002-0102) for erosions caused by unauthorized discharges. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2002-0100 was issued to Christopher Stone, Adams Ridge Vineyard for the effects of earthen materials that threaten to be discharged into tributaries of Alder Creek. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2002-0106 was issued to Von Tillow Burbank Cleaners for Discharger to cleanup and abate the discharge and threatened discharges forthwith. Additionally, a recision of Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 95-008 was issued for Brad Jkohansson, Atlas Bulk Carriers.

## **TIMBER HARVEST ACTIVITIES**

## **CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 LETTER ORDERS**

There was one California Water Code section 13267(b) Letter Order issued during the month of October 2002. The letter was issued Calpine Corporation, Fourmile Hill Geothermal Project to request an Expanation for compliance with M&R Program issued by each affected Regional Water Board (RB1 and RB5).

## **SPILLS, COMPLAINTS, AND INVESTIGATIONS**

Twelve complaints were received during the months of October 2002. One spill was reported during October 2002.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINTS/ ORDERS**

No Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaints were issued during October 2002.

## **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM**

For the month of October 2002, there has been a total of \$2,270,434 in funds issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. There were no letters of commitment issued during the month of October 2002.

## **CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 CERTIFICATIONS**

Two new applications for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification were received in October 2002. Ten 401 were issued in October 2002.

Information regarding all proposed certifications is available at our Internet web site at:

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/Public\\_Notices/401certs/notice401.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/Public_Notices/401certs/notice401.html)

## **PUBLIC FILE REVIEW**

From October 1 through October 31, 2002, four written request was made for review of the Regional Water Board's records. In addition, a total of 45 people came into the office and requested file review during the month of October 2002.

## **STAFF HIRING**

There were no new hires during the month of October 2002.

## **DECEMBER AND JANUARY REGIONAL WATER BOARD MEETINGS**

An additional Regional Water Board Meeting is schueduled for December 10, 2002 in Santa Rosa. The Regional Water Board meeting for January 2003 is scheduled to be held in Santa Rosa on January 23, 2003.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.